

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An apparatus for holding paintballs and supplying them to a paintball gun comprised of:
a first hollow chamber, an exit, a second hollow chamber, a gate between said first and second hollow chambers, and a fill port;

wherein said first chamber is located above the level of the breech of the gun and runs from a point forward of the breech to a point behind the breech and has a bottom shaped to guide the paintballs to said exit;

wherein said exit is in communication with the paintball gun breech and guides the paintballs to the breech;

said second hollow chamber being in communication with said first hollow chamber at the rear of said first chamber and extending back therefrom;

said gate located between said first and second chambers operating in only one direction to allow paintballs in said second chamber to flow from said second chamber to said first chamber but not the other way;

and said fill port serving as a means for loading paintballs into either said first or said second chambers.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the apparatus is designed to couple with a paintball gun such that the combined assembly features the general appearance of a conventional firearm.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein an additional gate is located adjacent the breech in said first chamber and operates to prevent paintballs from rolling away from the breech when the gun is held at a significant angle from horizontal.
4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second hollow chamber is separable from said first hollow chamber and interchangeable with a like second hollow chamber.
5. An apparatus for holding paintballs and supplying them to a paintball gun comprised of:
 - a first hollow chamber mounted above the breech of the gun and extending from a point forward of the breech to a point to the rear of the breech and having a bottom shaped to guide the paintballs to an exit leading to the gun breech;
 - a second hollow chamber in communication with the rear of said first hollow chamber, extending back from said first hollow chamber;
 - a gate between said first and said second hollow chamber that operates to allow paintballs to flow from said second chamber to said first chamber but not

the other way;

and a fill port in said apparatus allowing paintballs to be loaded therein.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein an additional gate is located adjacent the breech in said first chamber and operates to prevent paintballs from rolling away from said breech when the gun is held at a significant angle from horizontal.
7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said apparatus is designed to couple with a paintball gun such that the combined assembly features the general appearance of a conventional firearm.
8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said second chamber is shaped to serve as the shoulder stock of a rifle.
9. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said second hollow chamber is separable from said first hollow chamber and interchangeable with a like second hollow chamber.
10. An apparatus for holding paintballs and supplying them to a paintball gun comprised of:

a hollow chamber mounted above the breech of the gun, fitting closely to the gun,

extending from a point forward on the gun to the rear of the gun, and

having a bottom shaped to guide paintballs to an exit port;

said exit port serving to direct the balls to the gun breech; and

a closable means for filling said apparatus.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein;

a second hollow chamber is in communication with said first hollow chamber at the rear of said first hollow chamber and extends back therefrom;

a gate is located between said first and second hollow chambers and operates in such a way that paintballs may travel from said second hollow chamber to said first hollow chamber but not the other way, and

wherein said closable means for filling the apparatus is located in said second hollow chamber.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said second hollow chamber is separable from said first hollow chamber and interchangeable with a like second hollow chamber.

13. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein;

a third hollow chamber is in communication with said first hollow chamber at the front of said first hollow chamber and extends forward therefrom;

and a gate is located between said first and third hollow chambers and operates in such a way that paintballs can flow from said third chamber to said first chamber but not the other way unless the gate is held open for the purpose of filling said third chamber.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said third hollow chamber has an upper portion and a lower portion;

said lower portion extending forward under the barrel and being shaped like the forestock of a long gun; and

said upper portion extending forward along the barrel and being designed to feature the general appearance of a second barrel, as in a gun having an over and under barrel arrangement.

15. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the third hollow chamber is separable from said first hollow chamber and interchangeable with a like third hollow chamber.

16. A paintball gun having two paintball hoppers integrally built into it;

comprising a first hopper and a second hopper with a gate between them;

said first hopper being above the level of the breech and in communication with

the breech and extending substantially over the operable length of the gun from the barrel to the rear of the bolt action and having its bottom interior shaped to guide the paintballs into the breech;

said second hopper being in communication with the rear of the first hopper and extending back therefrom;

said gate being disposed between said first and second hoppers and operating so as to allow paintballs to flow from the second hopper to the first hopper but not the other direction;

and said second hopper having a port which may be used to fill the paintball gun.

17. The paintball gun of claim 16 wherein a second gate is located in said first hopper at the breech and operates so as to prevent the paintballs from rolling away from the breech when the paintball gun is tilted substantially from horizontal.
18. The paintball gun of claim 16 wherein said integral hoppers are designed such that the paintball gun features the general appearance of a conventional firearm.
19. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said second hopper is separable from said first hopper and interchangeable with a like second hopper.

20. A paintball gun featuring three paintball hoppers integrally built into it;

comprising a first hopper, a middle hopper, a second hopper, and a first and second gate therein;

said middle portion being above the level of the breech and in communication with the breech and extending substantially over the operable length of the gun from the barrel to the rear of the bolt action and having its bottom interior shaped so as to guide the paintballs into the breech;

said second hopper being in communication with the rear of the middle hopper and extending back therefrom;

said first gate being disposed between said middle and second hoppers and operating so as to allow paintballs to flow from the second hopper to the middle hopper but not the other direction;

said first hopper being in communication with the front end of the middle hopper and extending forward;

said second gate being disposed between the middle and first hopper and operating so as to allow the paintballs to roll from the first hopper to said middle hopper but not the other direction, unless said second gate is held

open for the purpose of filling the first hopper;

and said second hopper having a port which may be used to fill the paintball gun.

21. The paintball gun of claim 20 wherein a third gate is located in said middle hopper at the breech and operates so as to prevent the paintballs from rolling away from the breech when said paintball gun is tilted substantially from horizontal.
22. The paintball gun of claim 20 wherein said second hopper is shaped like the shoulder stock of a long gun.
23. The paintball gun of claim 20 wherein the second hopper is separable from said middle hopper and interchangeable with a like second hopper.
24. The paintball gun of claim 20 wherein said first hopper extends forward under the barrel and is shaped like the forestock of a long gun.
25. The paintball gun of claim 20 wherein said first hopper extends forward along the barrel and is shaped like a second barrel as in a gun having an over and under barrel arrangement.
26. The paintball gun of claim 20 wherein said first hopper has an upper portion and a lower portion;

said lower portion extending forward under the barrel and being shaped like the
forestock of a long gun;

and said upper portion extending forward along the barrel and being shaped like a
second barrel as in a gun having an over and under barrel arrangement.

27. The paintball gun of claim 20 wherein said first hopper is separable from said middle
hopper and interchangeable with a like first hopper.

28. A paintball gun featuring three paintball hoppers integrally built into it;

comprising a first hopper, a middle hopper, a second hopper, and a first and
second gate therein;

said middle hopper being above the level of the breech and in communication
with the breech and extending substantially over the operable length of the
gun from the barrel to the rear of the bolt action and having its bottom
interior shaped so as to guide the paintballs into the breech;

said second hopper being in communication with the rear of the middle hopper
and extending back therefrom;

said first gate being disposed between said middle and second hopper and
operating so as to allow paintballs to flow from the second hopper to the
middle hopper but not the other direction;

said first hopper being in communication with the front end of the second
hopper and extending forward;

said second gate being disposed between said second and first hoppers and
operating so as to allow the paintballs to roll from said first hopper to the
second hopper but not the other direction, unless said second gate is held
open for the purpose of filling the first portion;

and said second hopper having through its surface a port which may be used to fill
the paintball gun.

29. The paintball gun of claim 28 wherein a third gate is located in said middle hopper at
the breech and operates so as to prevent the paintballs from rolling away from the
breech when the paintball gun is tilted substantially from horizontal.